

TITLE: APPARATUS FOR CONTAMINANT REMOVAL USING NATURAL CONVECTION FLOW AND CHANGES IN SOLUBILITY CONCENTRATIONS BY TEMPERATURE

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INVENTORS: Mary C. Marshall, John G. Franjione, Christopher J. Freitas, Tom Roberds, Gordon Pollard, Jill Blake

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Priority Information

15 The present application is a continuation-in-part of co-pending ~~divisional~~ application Serial No. 08/674,702, filed July 8, 1996, now U.S. Patent No. 6,165,282, which was a continuation-in-part of application Serial No. 08/348,035, filed December 1, 1994, abandoned, which was a divisional of application Serial No. 07/906,557 filed June 30, 1992, now U.S. Patent No. 5,401,322.

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BACKGROUND

Field of the Invention

25 The invention relates to methods and apparatus for cleaning articles using supercritical and/or near-supercritical fluids. In particular, the present invention relates to using differences in contaminant solubility and solvent density at various temperatures and/or pressures to effect cleaning action, to influence solvent and/or contaminant movement in the cleaning apparatus, and to facilitate the concentration of contaminants within the cleaning apparatus and their subsequent removal. Even more